

Practically the effect is the same as that of an extensive, superficial, and rapid cauterization, without vesication or destruction of the epidermis. This treatment is not suited to all forms of neuralgia, (*i. e.* syphilitic), it is most applicable to those having a rheumatic basis. Dr. M. mentions seven cases which he saw treated; and all were cured, or nearly cured, by from one to three applications. Unfortunately the cost of importing the necessary apparatus to this country would be nearly \$275.

Hypnone. Hypnone as an hypnotic does not seem to "pan out" well. It has a horrible taste, is violently irritant, and should be given in gelatin capsules, or pearls: it seems to be unreliable and not free from danger.

Hopeine. It is just as well to know that "Hopeine" has been proved to be a fraud, being only morphine flavored with hops.

Urethane or Carbamate of Ethyl. Dr. HENRI HUCHARD, contributes his experience with Urethane. Translated from *Bulletin, Gen. de. Ther.*, Feb. 15, 1886, by F. R. Campbell, M.D.

The *Urethanes* form a class of ethers derived from carbamic acid, an acid which has been isolated, but which enters into the composition of several salts and ethers. This acid has certain chemical relations with urea, and it is on this account that the carbamic ethers have been called Urethanes. *Urethane*, or ethyl Urethane, in the carbamate of ethyl, or ethylic ether of carbamic acid. Its formula is, $\text{N H}_2 \cdot \text{C}_2\text{O}_2 \cdot \text{C}_2\text{H}_5$ and is found to consist of rhomboidal crystals fusing at 55° , and distilling at 180° . It is very soluble in water, alcohol, and ether. Its taste is quite agreeable,—and resembles somewhat that of nitrate of potash. The new medicine was introduced into therapeutics by Schmideberg, of Strassburg, and has been studied by Jolly, Jacksch of Vienna, and by Riegel & Stecker, of Giessen, who recognized its sedative and hypnotic properties. H. gives the results of Dr. Elroy's experiments on rabbits and guinea-pigs with the drug, the general effect being to produce a kind of cataleptiform sleep.

One rabbit remained in a profound sleep during an entire day, under the influence of 3 gram. of urethane, given subcutaneously. In another, 9 gram. did not produce death.

Huchard, prescribed urethane in fourteen cases, suffering from various degrees of insomnia, and affected with various diseases, including heart disease and angina pectoris. The results are described as highly satisfactory, sleep, "calm, peaceful without dreams, digestion disturbance or headache," comes on in from 10 minutes to one hour, and last 4 to 10 hours. H. prefers 3-4 gram. as a dose instead 1-2 gram., directed by German writers, and gives it mixed with syr. aurant. cort.

One great advantage claimed for Urethane, is that it does not

produce unpleasant symptoms relating to the stomach, heart, or nervous system. It is superior to opium in consumption, an experience confirmed by Jacksch & Stecker : but urethane is greatly inferior to morphine, where insomnia is due to pain, as it has no analgesic power, its advantages may be summed up as follows : feeble toxic powers, great solubility in water, not a disagreeable taste, its easy administration to children, the absence of unpleasant, sequelæ, and the excellent effects produced in phthisis and heart disease.—*Buffalo Med. and Surg. Journal*.

NOTE.—In the *Neurol. Centralblatt*, No. 5, 1886. Dr. Emil Kraepelin reports very favorably upon the action of urethane. His conclusions are based upon 200 doses, distributed among 34 patients. With 1.0 doses treatment was successful in 54%, with 3.0 in 70% of his cases. In the excited state of general paresis he found large doses effective in 60% of the cases ; but in a severe maniacal state, he had to resort to paraldehyde. The hypnotic effects of urethane were also exhibited in 77% of the cases of melancholia. (B.S.)

Quebracho in Melancholia. KIERNAN (*Am. Lancet*, Feb., 1886), reasoning from the fact that in melancholia stuporous insanity and other depressed states, the cerebral disease seems to exert an inhibitory action on cardio-motor innervation, causing the pulse to be small, the arterial tone low, and the capillary circulation weak, etc., concluded that quebracho might be of use in such conditions. Guided, also, by its effects in a case, where he gave it for the relief of great dyspnœa, and found that the mental condition was also greatly improved, he tried the drug in ten cases of melancholia accompanied by præcordial pain. The results were decidedly beneficial. He thinks that in melancholia, especially in the atonic types, this drug will prove of decided value.—*The Med. Analectic*, March, 1886.

The Treatment of Recurrent Headache in Children.—Dr. RUSSELL STURGIS (*Boston Med. and Surg. Jour.*) highly recommends ergot for this affection. By recurrent headache he means that form which recurs at intervals of days or weeks, often lasting several years, sometimes accompanied with optical sensations of sparks, bands of color, etc., rarely with nausea. The children who are the subjects of the disease are, as a rule, of nervous temperament, fretful, do not sleep well, and frequently have nocturnal terrors.

Dr. S. thinks the headaches are not identical with true migraine in the adult. Since 1882 he has treated sixteen cases. At first he spent a long time unsuccessfully to relieve the patient with tonic and hygienic treatment, caffeine, and guarana. Finally he employed ergot, giving m. x. of the fluid extract three times daily after meals, continuing the treatment two weeks at least after disappearance of the pain. The longest time required to free a patient from an attack was four weeks. In one case two doses sufficed.